



4-H HUNT SEAT EQUITATION OVER FENCES



A horse should be at least 5 years old before going over jumps.

Performance

Any test listed under equitation may be asked. Performance will be judged on effective use of aids on the entire course. Emphasis will be on light hands, balance, correct posture, and seat on the flat and over fences. Excessive speed will be penalized.

Before taking any jumps, including the warm-up jump, a safety inspection should be done. The inspection will include, but is not limited to, making sure the stirrup bars are open, the stitching on saddle stress points is in good repair, the girth is snug, and the bridle is properly fitted and in good repair.

Jump height is not to exceed 3', and the spread is not to exceed the height. Recommended jump heights:

- ❖ 18" for Juniors
- ❖ 18"-24" for Intermediates
- ❖ 24" for Seniors

A supervised warm-up jump must be available prior to the class. This warm-up should be limited to 1 jump, preferably not on the course or inside the arena or pattern area. The number of times a competitor can practice the warm-up jump is to be specified by the local show committee.

The course will consist of 6–12 jumps, performed at a canter, with at least 1 change of direction. The judge may ask the class to do rail work at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring.

The rider will be allowed to circle 1 time before starting the course. A refusal will be called when a horse avoids a jump or stops forward motion. If the refusal is at a combination jump, the rider must retake all elements of the combination. Faults such as knock-downs and touches will not be considered unless they are the fault of the rider.

Types of Fences

Basic types of fences are allowed; for example, post and rail, wall, gate, brush, coop, planks, and picket fences. Spreads should not exceed the height of the fence. Wings at least 12" higher than the jumps and 30" wide are compulsory when jumps are less than 12' wide. The distance between standards should be a minimum of 9'. Ground pole or lines are required. Courses should have at least 4 different types of jumps and 1 combination jump (24 or 36' apart); in and outs are not to be used at the start of the course. Use of striped rails is discouraged. Triple bars, hogs backs, targets, square oxers, hinged chicken coops, and any bizarre or dangerous jumps are prohibited.

Table 1. Major faults and disqualifications in hunt seat equitation over fences

<i>Major Faults</i>	<i>Refusal(s)</i> <i>Loss of stirrup</i> <i>Trotting while on course</i> <i>Loss of reins</i> <i>Excessive speed</i> <i>Lack of control</i>
<i>Disqualifications</i>	<i>Fall of horse or rider</i> <i>3 cumulative refusals</i> <i>Off course</i>

*Information from PNW574 4-H Horse
Contest Guide, provided by:*

